

# What's New in the MPDC

JULY 15, 2002

## ADDITIONAL OFFICERS TO PATROL DC STREETS, TARGET "HOT SPOTS" OF CRIME, THIS SUMMER

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*In addition to the Summer Mobile Force expansion, 13 more officers are hitting the streets permanently in the seven police districts after completing their recruit training.*

*Congratulations to the following officers, who were sworn in Friday afternoon: Stephen Angelis, Bryan Bobick, John Brennan, Earl Brown, Antonio Cosey Sr., Oliver Dunn Sr., Zunnobia Hakim, Cynthia Horn,*

Beginning July 15, between 90 and 100 additional MPDC officers will patrol DC streets every Tuesday through Saturday night as part of an expanded Summer Mobile Force program announced by Chief Ramsey. Officers, sergeants and lieutenants assigned to specialized units and administrative positions will be redeployed to field duty on the "power shift," from 6 pm to 2:30 am, five nights a week. On Friday and Saturday nights, the program will be extended until 4 am, using volunteers working in an overtime capacity. Rather than being spread among the seven police districts, as they were in previous "redeployment" pro-

grams, the extra officers will be part of the Summer Mobile Force. This unit targets selected "hot spots" in various DC neighborhoods that are experiencing violence, drug trafficking and other forms of street crime. Each redeployed member will patrol the streets for two one-week periods from mid-July through mid-October. Read the news release at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

## MPDC TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN POLICE SERVICE AREA (PSA) BOUNDARIES

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In an effort to optimize resources and better support community policing, the MPDC is considering a plan to reconfigure the boundaries of the 83 Police Service Areas (PSAs), Chief Ramsey told the DC Council's Judiciary Committee during a hearing this week. Ramsey told Councilmembers that he supports the basic PSA model, but believes it needs some modifications. Under the preliminary plan, some existing PSAs would be split; others would get larger or be consolidated. The net result would be to reduce the total number of PSAs and to better align the remaining PSAs with natural neighborhood boundaries. PSA officer staffing would remain at current and projected levels; there would be no reduction in the overall number of officers assigned to the PSAs as a result of the proposed reconfiguration. Cutting the overall number of PSAs would free up additional lieutenants for other supervisory and management responsibilities within the Department, and would increase the number of officers assigned to the average PSA. Ramsey said that once the proposed PSA configuration plan is finalized, the MPDC will hold a series of community meetings later in the year to get public reaction and input. Read the Chief's statement at:

*Want to find out what current PSA you live in, along with information about your police district and PSA? Go to the "PSA Finder" feature at:*  
**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm)**

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/07/071002.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/07/071002.shtm)**

## CHIEF RAMSEY DISCUSSES CHANGES IN LATINO RECRUITMENT, DEPLOYMENT AND OUTREACH

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In testimony before two DC Council committees this week, Chief Ramsey outlined a number of changes in MPDC's efforts to work with the Latino community, including stepped-up recruitment of Spanish-speaking officers and the formation of a Latino Liaison Unit. In March, a team of MPDC recruiters, visited several locations in Puerto Rico and tested hundreds of potential applicants – both entry level and lateral. The Department expects to hire at least 90 new bi-lingual officers, including 60 experienced officers, many of whom have college degrees. Ramsey said the MPDC currently has 178 officers who have identified themselves as Latino; 85 of those officers, along with seven other employees, are certified as bi-lingual and earn a \$50 stipend per pay period. The Chief also announced the formation of a Latino Liaison Unit, to be staffed by one sergeant, two detectives and six officers, all of whom will be bilingual. The new unit, to be located at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbia Road, NW, will spearhead community outreach efforts in Latino communities throughout the District, along with specialized criminal investigations and crime prevention efforts. The Chief's complete statement can be found at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/07/071102.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/07/071102.shtm)

## MID-YEAR STATISTICS SHOW SLIGHT CRIME DECLINE IN DC

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After falling more than 8 percent in June, reported crime in DC is down by just under 1 percent through the first six months of 2002, according to preliminary crime statistics released this week by the MPDC. Compared with the first half of 2001, crime has fallen in six of the nine major crime categories, including sexual assault (-25.6%), arson (-23.5%) and theft (-11.2%). Homicides were up nearly 27 percent during the first half of 2002; burglaries (+15.9) and auto thefts (+9.1%) also rose during this period. Burglaries did decline nearly 8 percent during the month of June, and homicides were unchanged for the month. Year to date, crime was down in three police districts and rose in four others, according to preliminary six-month figures. You can access the preliminary crime statistics for the seven police districts and the city as a whole at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm)

*Help combat auto theft in your community. Register on-line for the free "Watch Your Car" vehicle theft prevention program at:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Chief Ramsey takes your phone calls on public safety issues during his monthly "Chatting with the Chief" program on WHUR (96.3-FM), Tuesday, July 16, from 6:40 to 7:00 pm.
- Mark your calendars! The annual National Night Out against crime celebration will take place on Tuesday, August 6. For information about events in your community, contact your local police district or call the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at 202-727-0783.

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**